Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for testing a user online comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a request for a software tool from a client; and

5   b) forwarding the software tool to the client, wherein said software tool when

executed on the client

i) displays a question to the user;

ii) after displaying the question, displays a list of possible answers to the

question with associated icons; and

10   iii) allows the user to select at least one icon that the user believes is

associated with a correct answer to the question.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein, when the software tool executes, feedback is

provided to the user to indicate if the at least one selected icon is associated with the

15   correct answer.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein, when the software tool executes, the user is

disabled from selecting icons if, after a predetermined maximum number of attempts, the

user does not select the correct answer or answers.

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4. The method of claim 1, wherein, in the steps of receiving and forwarding, the
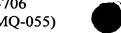
software tool includes an applet.

5.   The method of claim 4, wherein the applet reads an input file for indicating the list of possible answers, and the correct answers.

6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the applet is referenced in a reference file

5   distinct from the input file.

7.   The method of claim 1, wherein, in the step of forwarding, a portion of the software tool is executed with a virtual machine on the client.

10   8.   A medium for use with an electronic device holding instructions for performing a method for testing a user online, the method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a request for a software tool from a client; and

b) forwarding the software tool to the client, wherein said software tool when executed on the client

15   i) displays a question to the user;

ii) after displaying the question, displays a list of possible answers to the question with associated icons; and

iii) allows the user to select at least one icon that the user believes is associated with a correct answer to the question.

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9.   The medium of claim 8, wherein the software tool generates a graphical user interface that provides feedback to the user to indicate if the at least one selected icon is associated with the correct answer.

10.   The medium of claim 9, wherein the graphical user interface permits a

predetermined number of user attempts to select the right answer.

11.   A system for use with an online educational course, the system comprising a

5   computer-readable medium having instructions to run an applet for displaying a question

and a check-icon list of possible answers to a user, wherein the user can select at least

one icon that is associated with an answer from the list that the user believes corresponds

to a correct answer to the question.

10   12.   The system of claim 11, wherein the computer readable medium includes

hypertext markup language (HTML) code to reference the applet.

13.   The system of claim 12, wherein the HTML code includes the question.

15   14.   The system of claim 13, further comprising an input file indicating which of the

possible answers is correct, said input file being separate from the HTML code to

prevent the user from obtaining the correct answer by looking at the HTML code.

15.   The system of claim 11, wherein the computer-readable medium is a compact

20   disc.

16.   A medium having instructions executable on a virtual machine for displaying a

question and a check-icon list of possible answers to a user, wherein the user can select

at least one icon that is associated with an answer from the list that the user believes

corresponds to a correct answer to the question.

17.   The medium of claim 16, wherein the virtual machine is a Java virtual machine.

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18.   The medium of claim 16, wherein the computer readable medium includes

hypertext markup language (HTML) code to invoke the execution of the instructions on

the virtual machine.

10   19.   The medium of claim 18, wherein the HTML code includes the question.

20.   The medium of claim 19, further comprising an input file indicating which of the

possible answers is correct, said input file being separate from the HTML code to

prevent the user from obtaining the correct answer by looking at the HTML code.

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